

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/921,856

Examiner

Neveen Abel-Jalil

Applicant(s)

FITZPATRICK ET AL.

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to April 18, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

JEFFREY GAFFIN Neveen Abel-Jalil
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER AU 2165
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. The Amendment filed on 18-April -2006 has been received and entered. Claims 1-17 are now pending.

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 1-17 are allowed over the prior art made of record.
3. The following is a statement of reasons for allowance:

The Closest prior art made of record de l'Etraz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,073,138) teaches synchronizing local contact list with a shared central database of contacts to keep up-to-date sphere of influence of one's personal and professional contacts.

The prior art of record (de l'Etraz et al. -U.S. Patent No. 6,073,138) does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claim), second identifying common contacts among said second compared contacts; and generating and storing a common contacts list in a common contacts database, the common contacts list defining yet another distinct set, as claimed in claims 1, and 12.

Claims 2-3, and 13-14 are allowed over the prior art made of record, because they are dependent from the allowed independent claims 1, and 12, respectively, and are further limiting and definite.

The prior art of record (de l'Etraz et al. -U.S. Patent No. 6,073,138) does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claim), generating and storing in a common contacts database a contact list defining yet another distinct set and contained said matched contacts, the common contacts list defining yet another distinct set, as claimed in claim 4.

Claim 5 is allowed over the prior art made of record, because it is dependent from the allowed independent claim 4, and is further limiting and definite.

The prior art of record (de l'Etraz et al. -U.S. Patent No. 6,073,138) does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claim), providing a visual hyperlink for each matching contact produced by said comparing step, wherein said hyperlinked matching contacts define a third set, as claimed in claims 6, and 17.

The prior art of record (de l'Etraz et al. -U.S. Patent No. 6,073,138) does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claim), a common contact list resulting from the comparison and defining yet another distinct set comprising contacts matched by said comparator, said matching contacts being stored in a common contacts database, as claimed in claim 7.

Claims 8-11 are allowed over the prior art made of record, because they are dependent from the allowed independent claim 7, and is further limiting and definite.

The prior art of record (de l'Etraz et al. -U.S. Patent No. 6,073,138) does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claim), comparing contacts in said exchanged contact lists to identify matching contacts; and storing said matched contacts in a common contact list, said common contact list defining an additional distinct said of contacts, said matching contacts being stored in a common contacts database, as claimed in claim 15.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably **accompany** the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neveen Abel-Jalil whose telephone number is 571-272-4074. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:30PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Neveen Abel-Jalil
May 8, 2006